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No. 12

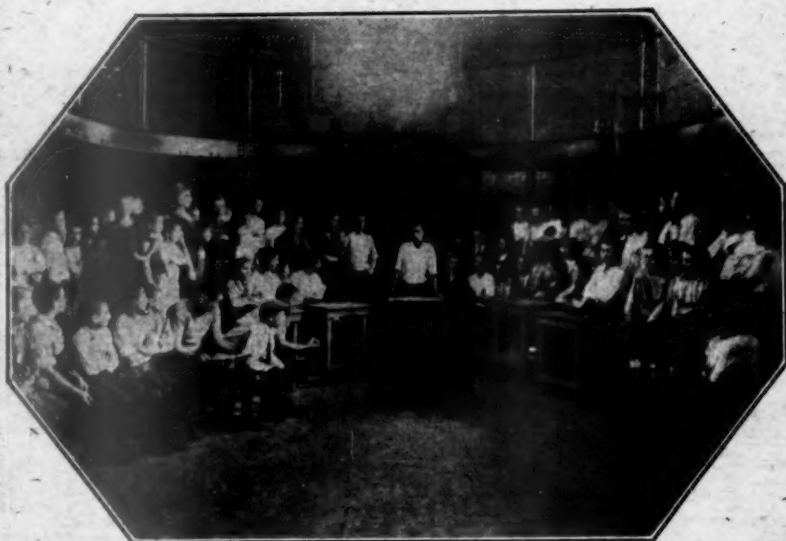
# Playground

MAR.

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1908

PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



THE CLUB VS. THE GANG IN THE REPUBLIC OF PLAY

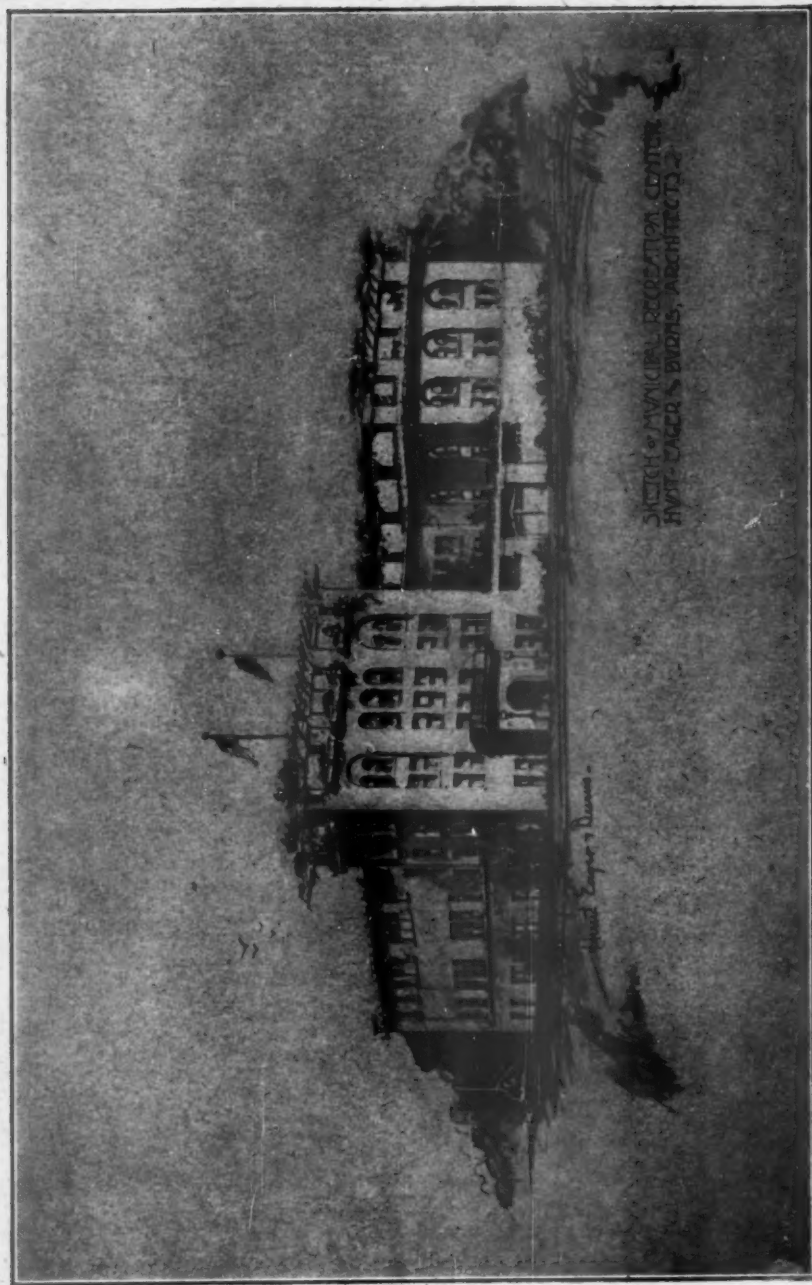
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## TWO NEW GAMES.

BY E. B. DEGROOT, CHICAGO.

(*Director, South Park Playgrounds and Gymnasiums.*)

A question which presents itself to every playground worker is, *what game may be most easily taught and permanently acquired and practiced among children of all ages?* An investigation in the playground, gymnasium or school room will demonstrate that it is a game which centers about a ball, or, more likely, a ball and a bat.

The factors involved in playing baseball (striking an object with a club, throwing a missile with force and accuracy, and running to base to defeat the throw of the opponent) express, more than the factors in any other game, the activities of our early ancestors whose existence depended in great measure upon their ability to wield a club, throw accurately and run swiftly. Thus great historical significance seems to attach to baseball or games with ball and bat. This thought is, at least, in harmony with Dr. Gulick's "Study of Group Games." However that may be, we have observed in Chicago, with Joseph Lee, of Boston, that not many games are needed in our playgrounds, but one good game, properly worked out and presented, will give the greatest satisfaction to all concerned. Proceeding in accordance with the theory suggested above, we have developed two games in our South Park Playgrounds which we have named "Playground Ball," for outdoor use, and "Long Ball," for indoor use. The latter is also played outdoor, but not to great extent.

### THE GAME PLAYGROUND BALL.

Briefly, Playground Ball is our traditional game of American baseball so modified that it may be played in large cities and restricted areas in spite of the adverse conditions found in these places. This form of baseball is also intended to give encouragement to a prolonged period of playing the national game among men who have passed the age or physical condition when they may comfortably handle a hard ball or run thirty yards between bases. Some of the more distinctive features of this game are as follows: The cost of equipment is very insignificant, there being no reason for the use of mask, protector, mit and gloves. Ten players constitute a side, thus engaging two more players than are engaged in a game of baseball. This game will not lend itself readily to the commercial and professional tendencies so common in baseball. It is distinctly a game for "fun," to be played by either young or old gentlemen.

The diamond may be laid out in a school yard, playground, vacant lot, golf club grounds, tennis courts, or on a lawn. The ball is too soft and yielding to injure players or spectators. The first batter at bat, at his own discretion (Rule XXIV) may run to either

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third or first base. This play opens possibilities for perception that are excluded in baseball. It will also more frequently engage the fielders on the left side of the diamond.

Scoring by points (Rule XVIII) gives each player and team credit for every successful play that places a man on a base. This method of scoring (five innings constituting a full game) enables school and playground leagues to conduct tournaments and play a great number of games in a single afternoon, with slight probability of ending with tie scores. Some of the rules, unlike baseball, are as follows:

RULE I. (The Diamond): Each side of the diamond shall be 35 feet long. The distance from Home Base to Second Base and from First to Third Base shall be  $48\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Bases shall be 18 inches square and the Home Base 12 inches square. The Pitcher's Plate shall be  $10 \times 2$  inches and shall be fixed 30 feet from Home Base on a straight line between Home Base and Second Base. The Batsman's Box (one to the left and one to the right of the Home Base) shall be 4 feet long and 3 feet wide, extending 1 foot in front of and 3 feet behind the center of the Home Base, with the nearest side 6 inches from the Home Base. In the South Park Playgrounds we make the bases and Pitcher's Plate of wood, sink and fix them flush with the earth and paint them white. A  $2 \times 4$  inch stick of lumber is used for a Pitcher's Plate, and strips of hard wood screwed to  $2 \times 4$  inch sticks, are used for bases.

RULE III. (The Ball): The ball shall not be less than 12 inches nor more than 14 inches in circumference. It shall not be less than 8 ounces nor more than  $8\frac{3}{4}$  ounces in weight. It shall be made of a yielding substance covered with a white covering. The 14-inch ball is recommended for use where the playing space is a small area.

RULE IV. (The Bat): The bat shall be  $2\frac{3}{4}$  feet long and not larger than 2 inches in diameter at the largest part. It shall be made entirely of wood.

RULE V. (The Players): Ten players shall constitute a side or team. The players' positions shall be such as shall be assigned them by their captain, except that the pitcher must take his position within the pitcher's lines as defined in Rule VI., while in the act of delivering the ball to the bat. There shall be three outfielders, right and left shortstops, three basemen and a battery.

RULE VI. (The Pitcher): The pitcher shall take his position facing the batter with both feet on the ground in front of the pitcher's plate, and when in the act of delivering the ball to the bat must keep one foot in contact with pitcher's plate. He shall not take more than one step in delivering the ball, and his pitching arm must be swung parallel with the body. Before delivering the ball to the batter he shall hold the ball in front of his body and in sight of the batter.

RULE XVIII. (Scoring): One run shall be scored every time a base runner, after having legally touched the first three bases, shall

## —TWO NEW GAMES

touch the Home Base before three men are put out. If the third man is forced out, or is put out before reaching legal base, a run shall not be scored. The game may be scored by points instead of runs as follows: Whenever a player arrives safely on a base, one point shall be scored for his side. It shall not make any difference whether a man is left on base when three men and his side are retired. If a player completes the circuit of the bases, four points shall be scored for his side.

RULE XXIV. (Regular Order of Bases): Base runners shall touch each base in regular order, i.e., either first, second, third and home base; or, third, second, first and home base. The first batter at bat, or when there is no base runner on base, shall have the option of running to either first or third base. The next batter shall run the bases in the same order. Example: The batter must run to third base after he hits the ball, or is entitled to a base, if the previous batter ran to third instead of first base, and is still on base.

RULE XXVI. (When Base Runners May Start):

(a) A base runner shall not leave his base when the pitcher holds the ball, standing in his box.

(b) A base runner shall not leave his base on a pitched ball not struck until after it has left the pitcher's hand when in the act of delivering it to the bat. He shall be called back if a premature start is made.

(c) A base runner shall be on his base when the pitcher is ready to deliver the ball to the bat.

NOTE: Starting too soon (b) shall not exempt a base runner from being put out on that particular play. The umpire must not make a decision in regard to a premature start until the base runner has reached the next base or is put out. With the above rules, proceed otherwise as in the game of baseball.

The many rules may seem to stand for an intricate, technical game, but in actual practice we find this game far easier to teach to all classes with sustained interest than such games as "Three Deep," "Prisoner's Base," "Last Couple Out," etc., etc.

Playground Ball is not only played in the South Park and Municipal playgrounds of Chicago, but it has an established place in the Sunday School and Bible Class Athletic Leagues, golf clubs, tennis clubs and suburban village clubs. One of the most interesting uses of the game in Chicago is seen at the noon hour, in town, where the employes in the large commercial houses play in Lake Front or Grant Park. The increasing interest in this game in and about Chicago has suggested the formation of an association to promote the use of the game in the various states. The character of the organization will be announced in the forthcoming *Guide*.

### THE GAME LONG BALL.

This game is a modification of Indoor Baseball, which we have found too slow and too technical where great numbers are involved.



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The game is best played in a room, gymnasium or court, where the ball does not readily pass beyond the reach of the fielders. If played on the playground, a court, fifty by sixty feet, should be marked out and surrounded by a high wire fence.

When played in the gymnasium, we use the regular indoor baseball, bat, home base, pitcher's and batter's boxes. Not less than 35 feet, nor more than 50 feet, in front of the home base is placed "long base," a 5 x 10 feet mat.

All base running is confined to a run between long base and home base. Choose any number of players on a side. We find that ten to twelve players on a side give the best results. The pitcher and catcher take the regular positions of these players. The other players on the fielding side may take any position in the field. Eliminate all foul lines. Every inch of floor or court in front or back of the home base is fair ground. Any ball that hits the bat is a fair ball.

The batsman must stand in his box facing the pitcher, and must swing his bat towards the pitcher or straight up, or "bunt." The batter must run to long base on the third strike, or on any ball that may hit his bat. He may be put out by (1) a fly catch when the ball has not touched any object except the bat, (2) by being "tagged" with the ball in the hands of a fielder, (3) by being hit with the ball when thrown by a fielder. Failure to hit the third strike does not put the batter out, even if the ball be held by the catcher. In this case the runner must be hit or "tagged" with the ball. In running to long base the runner may run in any direction in front of the home base, i.e., dodge, zigzag or slide.

Any number of base runners may be on long base at the same time, except that the side at bat must have a player "home" and ready to bat, otherwise the side at bat shall retire. After leaving long base in an attempt to run home, the base runner may not return to long base, but must complete the play. One run is scored each time a base runner touches home base after legally touching long base before three men are put out.

The above is merely a running sketch of Long Ball. A type-written copy of the rules will be sent to any person who makes application for the same to Mr. E. B. DeGroot, South Park Office, Fifty-seventh Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago. Four cents in stamps should be enclosed for return postage.

The following cities will need supervisors or teachers for their playgrounds during the coming summer. Applications for positions should be made to the persons whose names are here given:

Morris, Mr. Stephen P.—408 City Hall—Omaha, Neb.  
Whitney, Miss Evangeline—500 Park Ave—New York City.  
Rumbold, Miss Charlotte—City Hall—St. Louis, Mo.  
Curtis, Dr. Henry S.—205 Ouray Building—Washington, D. C.  
Hill, Mrs. Gilman—Waterbury, Conn.  
O'Connor, Miss M. J.—Evergreen St.—Providence, R. I.  
Johnson, Mr. Charles F.—Y. M. C. A.—Wilkesbarre, Pa.  
Ward, Mr. Edward J.—Board of Education—Rochester, N. Y.  
Hetherington, Dr. C. W.—University of Missouri—Columbia, Mo.  
Elsom, Dr. J. C.—University of Wisconsin—Madison, Wis.  
Huggins, Miss Hazel—170 South 18th St.—Columbus, O.  
Wood, Mr. Horace—St. Joseph, Mo.  
Booth, C. T.—Y. M. C. A.—Minneapolis, Minn.

## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

### PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HARMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

On February 17th, a playground association was organized in Peoria, Ill. Superintendent Gerard T. Smith was elected president.

Mayor S. H. Walker, of Altoona, Pa., made an appeal to his city council for playgrounds in a communication sent on February 24th. The following is a paragraph from his letter:

"So long as Altoona was a straggling town with vacant lots in all sections, the question of parks and playgrounds was not a pressing one. But conditions have changed. We now have a compactly built city, leaving the children no place for recreation other than busy streets, wherein the traffic has grown proportionately with the city itself. A little forethought might have obviated a condition of this sort, but in common with most American cities, Altoona was never planned; like Topsy, 'it just grewed.'"

The annual report of the Boston Park Commissioners issued on January 31st, 1907, contains the following paragraph:

"No better use of city funds can be made than for the purchase of new playgrounds, and no citizen of Boston can make a better gift to his fellow citizens or one of more enduring value to many generations than a playground."

The Physical Training Department of the University of Missouri is carrying on an active campaign for playgrounds throughout the State. Dr. C. W. Hetherington, the director, writes that playground associations have been organized in St. Joseph, Harrisonville, Carthage, Joplin and Boonville. Organizations will be started in several other cities this spring.

Atlanta, Ga., is taking an interest in public playgrounds. An editorial from the *Constitution* sums up the situation by saying: "It is simply civic duty—commercially and economically in the long run—to follow in the footsteps of other cities, and give Atlanta a system of parks and playgrounds of which the city will have reason to be proud."

At a meeting held in Baltimore on February 20th, and attended by about fifty of the representative people of the city, a Public Welfare League was organized. The plan of the organization is to bring into harmonious co-operation organized athletics for school children, athletics for the working boys of the city, the playground association, and the work of the public gymnasia. The organization is the first of its kind in this country, and will be watched with considerable interest.

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

The schedule of salaries in the St. Paul playgrounds for the coming season is: \$40 per month for untrained assistants the first year; \$45 per month for college graduates or kindergartners the first year; \$50 per month for graduates of physical culture normal schools the first year; an increase of \$5 per month for each year of playground experience until a maximum of \$60 is reached.

The Park Department of Milwaukee has been active during the past year in the extension of playground facilities. Three tracts of land in the central part of the city have been purchased, and will be fitted up as playgrounds for the coming summer. The secretary of the Park Commission says: "Our aim is to ultimately have athletic fields and open-air gymnasiums in connection with these playgrounds, but during the next few years we will do everything we can to get the necessary playgrounds for the smaller children."

The Small Park Commission of Chicago has asked for appropriations for the purchase of five new playgrounds during the coming season. In 1907 Chicago spent \$103,779.81 on its playgrounds. The amount asked for for 1908 is \$180,390.

The Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. Training School is extending the playground part of its course. Prof. Geo. B. Affleck, formerly of Chicago, is to have charge of this department after April 1st.

Cincinnati, O., has recently purchased several building lots, centrally located, for a new public playground. The purchase was authorized on February 3rd.

Cleveland, O., is to have twenty-two playgrounds during the coming season. Last summer nine were in operation. \$4,500 has been appropriated for the equipment of five of these new playgrounds.

The Woman's Club of Dallas, Tex., has started a movement for playgrounds in their city. Local newspapers, particularly the *News*, are joining in the movement.

Detroit is considering the establishment of a model playground back of the old Orleans reservoir, which will necessitate closing two streets. Mayor Thompson has declared himself in favor of the proposition. The Board of Education already has estimates in for nine school playgrounds, with plans for equipment to the amount of \$2,420.

On February 24th, a playgrounds association was organized in Erie, Pa. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Ray Himrod, president; Archie Howes, first vice-president; Conrad Klein, second vice-president; W. H. Miller, secretary; Marvin Griswold, treasurer.



## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

The R. D. L. Sunshine Society of Harrisburg, Pa., has for the past three seasons been supporting a summer playground. A skating party was held under the auspices of this society on February 14th, at which \$208.50 was cleared for the playground fund.

The residents of the Fourth Ward, Hoboken, N. J., are petitioning the Common Council for a playground for that section of the city. Mayor Steil has expressed himself in favor of the plan, and promised to do all in his power to bring it about.

The report of the Park Commissioners of Milwaukee has the following to say about playgrounds: "The playgrounds question has received considerable attention this season and playgrounds have been established in all the parks and fitted up with suitable apparatus for the smaller children, it being considered that they needed the recreation more than the older children, who will have to wait until the park funds are such that athletic fields and apparatus can be supplied. There has been nothing done that has caused more satisfaction to the public and joy to the little ones than the playgrounds, and arrangements will be made to extend them in all the parks as the needs require. Efforts should also be made to secure land for playground purposes in the interior portions of the city, so as not to compel children to go too great a distance to reach the same. Wherever possible, the system of distributing school houses and fire engine houses throughout the city might well be followed in the installing of these playgrounds."

Mr. Edward A. Abbott, Chairman of Parks and Drives Committee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., says: "Parks are no longer made for spectacular purposes. The most splendid monument cannot compete with a load of sand as a practical benefit to the children and the mothers of the children. It would give me a thousand times more pleasure to show some tired mother the way to a sand pile in a children's playground than to take the most distinguished visitor to the top of Cameron Hill."

On February 26th, a meeting was held in the Assembly Chamber, City Hall, Jersey City, to consider some means of providing playgrounds and organizing athletic games for the older boys of the city. It was decided to organize a school athletic league, which should co-operate with the playground association. Chairman Steelman, of the Committee on Vacation Schools of the Board of Education, presided, and was appointed temporary chairman. The City Superintendent of Schools was appointed chairman of the Committee on Amendments; President Kinkhead, of the Board of Aldermen, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, and Mr. Bernstein, a local business man, was appointed chairman of the Finance Committee.

## PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

The newly organized City Club of Kansas City, Mo., has appointed a Committee on Playgrounds, of which C. W. Moore is chairman. This committee will co-operate with the local playground association and the Park Department in securing better playground facilities for the children of the city.

The Knoxville, Tenn., *Sentinel* says: "Every city should have playgrounds easy of access. No investment would yield larger returns. The strenuousness and excitements of modern life make playgrounds imperative."

The Park Commission of Lowell, Mass., has asked for \$5,000 with which to lay out a playground on city land near the Lincoln school. The association is also making plans for installing a wading pool on the South Common.

Milwaukee has begun to equip its public school playgrounds with apparatus similar to that which has been placed in the playgrounds located in the parks. The school playgrounds will not be restricted to the children attending the school, but will be open to all the children in the neighborhood.

The matter of providing a playground for the children of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., was taken up at the meeting of the Common Council on February 18th. Mayor Howe has appointed a committee of about twenty prominent citizens to look after playground interests in the city.

The Newburyport, Mass., *Daily News* of February 4th, says: "The nation is moving toward the playground idea. The public playground is rapidly becoming a feature of life in every large city, and there is a movement under way to have this same opportunity afforded to the children of the smaller cities."

The Board of Aldermen of New Haven, Conn., has appointed a Playground Committee, consisting of Aldermen Marlow, Mulvey, Stanton, Jansen and Loos.

Mr. B. P. Sullivan, of New Orleans, La., has succeeded in organizing a successful Public Schools Athletic League for the boys of his city. He has now turned his attention to the matter of securing public playgrounds for the small children of New Orleans. A meeting was held on February 21st, at which a Playground Committee was appointed, and plans were made for proceeding at once with the work.

So successful has been the first city playground in Newark, N. J., that the Playground Commission is about to open another for the children who live in the congested section. Geo. W. Jagle is chairman

## —PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

of the Commission. The Commission has asked for \$25,000 to establish and maintain playgrounds during the coming year.

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Omaha, Neb., has tried the plan of a "playground city" form of government for the children on its playgrounds. The plan has met with unqualified success.

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The Playground Association of Philadelphia has decided to organize a Junior Membership Society of the boys and girls who make use of the playgrounds. Each junior member will be provided with a playground button, on which will be printed the watchword "fair play."

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The Boys' Club of Pittsfield, Mass., is undertaking to develop a system of playgrounds for the city. They expect to make a beginning during the coming summer.

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The Park Commission of Portland, Ore., has plans under way for the transformation of a large tract of undeveloped land into a public playground and athletic field. Olmsted Bros., the landscape architects, have been employed to map out plans of development.

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Richmond, Va., is planning to open ten school playgrounds for white children, and two for colored children during the coming summer. Appropriation for this purpose has been asked for.

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Three hundred citizens of Rutherford, N. J., have petitioned Mayor Thomas W. Evans for public playgrounds. As a result he has appointed a Playground Commission.

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The playgrounds of Salem, Mass., are likely to be turned over to the Board of Education for the coming season. Up to this time they have been under the direction of the Y. M. C. A., and have been supported by contributions. Mayor Hurley has approved of the plan.

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Cleveland, O., has 1645 acres of public parks and playgrounds. That is 1 acre for every 285 inhabitants. The annual report of the Board of Public Service opens with the following paragraph: "The policy inaugurated by the present administration of abolishing the Keep off the Grass signs and conducting the parks in the interest and for the welfare of all the people of Cleveland, regardless of their social standing or financial rating; of providing healthy forms of recreation and amusement to both young and old, and of extending, enlarging and improving the park system to keep pace with the city's needs and growth, has been continued and broadened."

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The new Playground Association of St. Joseph, Mo., will open three public playgrounds for the coming season.

## LOCAL SECRETARIES—

### LOCAL SECRETARIES FOR EMPLOYMENT OF PLAYGROUND WORKERS.

The local secretaries whose names are given below will be glad to receive communications from cities desiring supervisors and teachers during the coming summer.

Dickey, Mr. Frank A.—Columbia University—New York City.  
 Klock, Miss M. Lena—N. H. State Normal School—Plymouth, N. H.  
 Hinman, Miss Jane L.—State Normal School—Trenton, N. J.  
 Himes, Miss Jessie S.—State Normal School—Oneonta, N. Y.  
 White, Frank W., M. D.—Temple University—Philadelphia, Pa.  
 McCaleb, Miss E.—Vassar College—Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
 Long, Mr. W. C.—State Normal School—Lock Haven, Pa.  
 Arey, Miss Bertha M.—State Normal School—Johnson, Vt.  
 Perry, Mr. W. S.—Pratt Institute—Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Phillips, Mr. G. M.—State Normal School—West Chester, Pa.  
 Lough, Prof. James E.—New York University—New York City.  
 Lane, Mr. F. C.—Boston University—688 Boylston St., Boston.  
 Cline, Mr. A. P.—University of Pennsylvania—Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Barr, Mr. William Francis—Drake University—Des Moines, Ia.  
 Swan, Miss Annie L. D.—State Normal School—Mansfield, Pa.  
 Kenyon, Mr. A. M.—Purdue University—Lafayette, Ind.  
 Caswell, Miss Mary—Wellesley College—Wellesley, Mass.  
 Lamkin, Miss Nina B.—State Normal School—Macomb, Ill.  
 Burton, Prof. Harry E.—Dartmouth College—Hanover, N. H.  
 Clevenger, Mr. Z. G.—Nebraska Wesleyan University—University Place, Neb.  
 Wells, Mr. Edgar H.—Harvard University—Cambridge, Mass.  
 Slaughter, Mr. E. H.—University of Chicago—Chicago, Ill.  
 Raymond, Mr. H. M.—Armour Institute of Technology—Chicago, Ill.  
 Gilman, Miss Grace M.—Posse Gymnasium—206 Massachusetts Ave., Boston.  
 Fling, Mr. Harry R.—State Normal School—Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Davis, Dr. B. F.—Ohio State Normal School—Oxford, O.  
 Arnold, Dr. E. H.—New Haven Normal School of Gymnastics—New Haven, Conn.  
 McCurdy, Mr. H. J.—Springfield Y. M. C. A. Training School—Springfield, Mass.  
 Savage, Dr. Watson S.—N. Y. School of Physical Education—308 W. 59th St., N. Y. City.  
 Groot, Prof. G. G.—Ohio Wesleyan University—Delaware, O.  
 Hanna, Dr. Delphine—Oberlin College—Oberlin, O.  
 Gilson, Miss Anne—Boston Normal School of Gymnastics—Huntington, Ave., Boston.  
 Angell, Prof. E. D.—University of Wisconsin—Madison, Wis.  
 Minnich, Dr. H. C.—Miami University—Oxford, O.  
 Kitchel, Mr. C. L.—Yale University—New Haven, Conn.  
 Director of Physical Culture—State Normal School—Mansfield, Pa.  
 Naismith, Dr. James—University of Kansas—Lawrence, Kan.  
 Long, Mr. Joyce R.—Leland Stanford Junior University—Stanford University, Cal.  
 Mack, Mr. Roy—Kansas Wesleyan University—Salina, Kan.  
 McAlvay, Miss Barbara—University of Michigan—115 Park Terrace, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
 Meisner, Miss Clara—State Normal School—Ellensburg, Wash.  
 Hinkston, Miss Ethel G.—Mechanics' Institute—Rochester, N. Y.  
 Grant, Dean—Northwestern University—Chicago, Ill.  
 Roberts, Prof. D. H.—Michigan State Normal College—Ypsilanti, Mich.  
 Shafer, Prin. Harry M.—State Normal School—Cheney, Wash.  
 Pratt, Miss J. L.—Columbia University—Teachers' College, New York.  
 Deerwester, Prof. Frank—State Normal School—Bellingham, Wash.  
 Howkins, Prin. George K.—State Normal School—Plattsburg, N. Y.  
 White, Frank, M. D.—Temple University—Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Foster, Dr. E. H. T.—Training School, Y. M. C. A.—824 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.  
 Hotchkiss, Prof. Willard E.—Northwestern University—Evanston, Ill.  
 Graves, Mr. E. V.—Lawrence University—Appleton, Wis.  
 Provost, Mr. N. L.—University of Nebraska—534 N. 16th St., Lincoln, Neb.  
 Glotfelter, Mr. J. H.—Kansas State Normal School—Emporia, Kan.  
 Fischer, Miss Edna Salome—State Normal School—Mankato, Minn.  
 Paulin, Miss Dorothy—Western University of Pennsylvania—Allegheny, Pa.  
 Jones, Miss M. L.—Western Normal School—Kalamazoo, Mich.  
 Scott, Mr. James R.—University of California—Berkeley, Cal.  
 Bolton, Prof. Frederick E.—State University of Iowa—Iowa City, Ia.  
 Bowen, W. P.—Michigan State Normal College—Ypsilanti, Mich.  
 Goodfellow, Miss Maud A.—State Normal School—Fitchburg, Mass.  
 Lull, Prof. H. G.—University of Washington—Seattle, Wash.  
 Secretary—Sargent Normal School—Cambridge, Mass.  
 Laubach, Mr. Frank C.—Princeton University—Princeton, N. J.  
 Briggs, Mr. A. L.—Central State Normal School—Drain, Ore.  
 Mitchell, Prof. J. N.—Normal School—Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Allen, Mr. H. R.—Normal College of No. American Gymnastic Union—Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Churbuck, Mr. Alton C.—State Normal School—Salem, Mass.

NOTE.—See bottom p. 6 for positions now to be filled.

# The Playground

## OFFICERS OF THE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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*President*  
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City of New York

*Second Vice-President*  
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*Secretary and Assistant Treasurer*  
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President and Founder of the Playground Association of Germany  
MRS. HUMPHRY WARD  
Founder of Vacation Schools and Organizer and Chairman of Evening Play Centers' Committee,  
London, England

### Patrons, 1908

Robert W. Garrett . . . . .	\$100	Joseph Lee . . . . .	\$250
John Garrett . . . . .	100	Miss E. F. Mason . . . . .	100
Edward S. Harkness . . . . .	100	Felix Warburg . . . . .	100
Mrs. S. V. Harkness . . . . .	100	Jacob H. Schiff . . . . .	100

"He who helps a child helps humanity with a distinctness, with an immediateness, which no other help given to human creatures in any other stage of their human life can possibly give again."  
—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

The present number of THE PLAYGROUND completes the first year of its publication. The editor would express his deep gratitude for the generous appreciation of the modest little monthly journal.

The highest anticipations of the Local Quorum have been exceeded far by the development of the playground movement during the last year, made possible largely by THE PLAYGROUND as a medium of communication among the many friends of children who are interested in satisfying their instinct for play.

In view of her especial relation to play schools in England, Mrs. Humphry Ward, the foremost woman in the world of literature, was asked to become an honorary member of the Playground Association of America. Having expressed her willingness, she was duly elected an honorary member, and the Playground Association of America takes great pleasure, therefore, in giving in her honor on the evening of the 31st of this month, on the occasion of her visit to the City of New York, a reception with a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria. Richard Watson Gilder will preside, and the after-dinner speakers will be Mrs. Humphry Ward, Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, Miss Jane Addams, Jacob Riis, Robert W. de Forest, William H. Maxwell and the Duchess of Marlborough. A large number of the leading citizens have already expressed their desire to attend, and the function promises to be one of the principal events of the season. An account will be published in the next number of THE PLAYGROUND. The Playground Association hopes as a result of this banquet to organize a strong and important Local Playground Association and to find friends who will become life members at \$1,000 each, and also possibly some one friend who will undertake to become the Baron Haussmann for the City of New York, by turning the waste places of the city into attractive playgrounds.

Note.—In No. 9 of THE PLAYGROUND an error appears on page 7. The last three paragraphs were sent to the editor of THE PLAYGROUND as extracts from the President's message, whereas they were taken from the Report to Congress by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.



## WASHINGTON SITES—

### WASHINGTON SITES AVAILABLE FOR PLAYGROUNDS.

BY HENRY S. CURTIS,

*Secretary Playground Association of America.*

Almost every day the mail brings notice to some new appropriation made by some city for the acquisition of playground sites. The present activity in this line is many-fold what it has been before. I regard this as the inevitable result of the movement becoming a municipal undertaking.

As most of the cities are now making their first beginnings in playground development, it would seem wise that they should begin with some definite plan for the city, which should be based on a careful inventory of all existing property, either public or private, which might be secured for this purpose.

About a month ago, with this end in view, I went first to Commissioner Neill, of the Department of Labor, and afterwards to Mr. Powers, Chief of the Department of Statistics of Cities in the Bureau of Inventories, and asked if it would not be possible for their respective departments to secure for us inventories of this kind for at least a few of the cities, so as to determine just how valuable such an inventory would be. Both of these gentlemen expressed a high appreciation of the value of such a study, and said that they would be glad to have it done by their respective departments, if the law and other work on hand permitted it, which, however, did not seem to be the case at the present time. I then laid the matter before the Executive Committee of the Playground Association of America, and they decided to have plans drawn for Washington, and to seek to persuade other American cities to do likewise. This article is an account of the work in the capital. The information which it contains may be found graphically represented on the map accompanying this number of *THE PLAYGROUND*.

In the inventory of possible playground sites it seemed advisable to keep an account of four different sorts of locations: First, of public or semi-public places belonging to the District of Columbia or the United States; second, of reclaimable areas, consisting of ponds or shallow streams and marshes that might be filled in; third, of abandoned cemeteries; and fourth, of vacant squares that might be purchased.

At first thought it would seem that the locating of public sites would be a very simple matter, for surely every city must keep a record of all the property that it owns and know where that property is situated. So one might suppose; but in actual fact it is not so easy. Mr. Powers tells me that probably less than one per cent. of the cities of America have maps showing the location of property belonging to them, and that in most places there is no complete list of city property available.

I took as the basis of this study of public sites in Washington a map from the report for 1904 of the officer in charge of buildings

and grounds, showing the property belonging to the United States within the old city limits. This chart was reasonably complete within these boundaries, but did not show property belonging to the United States beyond Florida avenue, and did not show any of the property belonging to the District of Columbia. These sites had to be found from the tax exemption lists and from Baist's Plat Book. The tax exemption lists gave the area of different tracts, and I made a drawing of each of the larger areas from the chart, wherever acquisition seemed possible. This was perhaps more difficult for Washington than it would be for most cities, as there are several hundred public reservations within the district boundaries.

At the time I first became interested in making this study, the considerations which led me to think it was worth while were the knowledge that London had taken sixty-seven cemeteries within the last few years for playgrounds; that removal of centrally located cemeteries beyond the city boundaries is sure to take place in most cases in course of time; that unused and neglected cemeteries are a menace both to public health and public morality, as they are sure to become haunts of the vicious and to furnish abundant opportunities for wrongdoing.

In investigating the subject I was greatly surprised to find the number of cemeteries, about thirty, which are now being used in the district. I secured this list from the burial permits which had been granted by the Health Department during the past year. By comparison of this list with the permits granted in 1880, I discovered that thirteen cemeteries which were used then had since been abandoned. I found from the plat books that all but five of these cemeteries had already disappeared from the map. It was a surprise to find how little of a permanent character there is in the cemeteries where the poor, and especially the negro, dead are buried. The graves are mostly marked with wooden slabs, which soon rot away, while the population itself, which is represented in the graves, is almost as fleeting as the headstones, moving to other cities or to other parts of the city, and taking comparatively little interest in the memorials left behind.

However, our experience with cemeteries in Washington has not been very satisfactory. We attempted to secure an abandoned cemetery in Georgetown last year for a playground. It was situated in one of the most densely settled parts of the city, poorly fenced, overgrown with young trees, and offered many secluded places of concealment. Dozens of whiskey bottles strewed the ground, and it offered many moral dangers to the young. But in trying to secure this site, we found that the tract had been given to the church for a cemetery and that when it was abandoned for cemetery purposes and the church undertook to sell it at a moderate price, the heirs of the donor claimed that it reverted to them. The result has been a lawsuit between the church and the heirs, so that the Playground Association has been unable until the present to get a good title to the ground.

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This, of course, is a circumstance which is not sure to occur in the purchase of a cemetery, but one that must be anticipated. Cemeteries are apt to be hedged about with regulations and sentiments which make them less desirable than other sites, but it must be remembered on the other hand that most of those situated within city limits will soon be taken for building purposes in any case if not given to some public use, and frequently they offer practically the only open space available. They can usually be had for less money than a similar site that has not been used as a cemetery. We shall probably get a good title to the cemetery in Georgetown in the near future, but we shall not undertake to secure any of the four others still vacant, chiefly, however, because they are not located in places where we wish to secure playgrounds at the present time. There are undoubtedly hundreds of such sites in the older cities of the East which have been abandoned for years, many practically without tombstones or other markings, which might be secured at comparatively low prices.

One of the most interesting parts of this inquiry was the study of the reclaimable areas around Washington. This is a subject which has tremendous possibilities for many cities, and one to which a new importance has been given by modern methods of hydraulic dredging which permit the moving of immense quantities of earth dissolved in water to considerable distances at very small cost. Within the last few years the Federal Government has secured in this way over 700 acres of riverside parks within the District of Columbia from the dredging of the Potomac. More than 100 acres are being filled in in the same way on the shores of the Anacostia this year and similar amounts will probably be filled in each year for several years to come, incidental to the dredging of the Anacostia for a deep water channel. The land which is filled in, in shallow parts of the river and surrounding marshes, is worth many times the cost of the dredging—so much so that several years ago a committee of citizens offered to fill in the shallow parts of the Anacostia and surrounding marshes for the United States for every second square of land thus made. The Government refused to listen to the proposition. There are undoubtedly many citizens in America, situated not far from the sea-board, that might thus, by dredging their river channels, become ocean ports, and secure at the same time a series of large riverside parks for nothing.

In following up this work, which is shown in black on the map, I first obtained the maps of the Hydrographic Bureau of the Geological Survey, which may be obtained for five cents apiece for almost any city in the country. These showed all the marsh lands and low-lying lands within the District of Columbia. I then secured a coast and geodetic survey map of the Potomac, which showed the depth of the water in the Potomac and Anacostia rivers over each area of the river beds. At the office of the engineer in charge of river and harbor improvements I found the plans of the United States for improving these rivers. The lower strip on the Anacostia is now being

filled in. The upper parts and the marsh above are to be filled in later, if plans now drawn are carried out. One of the sites which it is proposed to fill in next year would make a magnificent riverside park with opportunities for a playground and bathing beach. The black part in the lower part of Washington opposite the barracks is being filled in rapidly with the ashes and waste of the city.

I found that in certain parts of the city a pond was a decided asset, as in some cases the ashes contractor was paying as high as \$250 a month for the privilege of dumping. Ashes make a very poor sub-soil for buildings, but an excellent sub-soil for a playground, as they furnish the best possible under-drainage. Nearly a hundred acres have been added to Riker's Island, New York, in this way within the last few years, and Grant Park, Chicago, is being built similarly. I found that Leipzig, Germany, had built a very considerable hill outside the city in this way, and then surfaced it with soil, planted it with trees and put an observatory on top, making one of the most beautiful small parks of the city. The amount of city waste from ashes and from cellars and other excavations would in a hundred years fill in many hundreds of acres of shallow water or marsh around our larger cities. A large part of the playgrounds of Boston have been gotten by filling in the marshes located in different parts of the city, and undoubtedly several more might be secured in the same way. The possibility of thus acquiring public sites is only very dimly realized, apparently, by most cities.

The black strip on the lower part of the map represents the James Creek canal, which was for many years an open trunk sewer, used also for bringing sand and coal and wood into the southern part of the city. This, with the contiguous territory belonging to it, makes a strip of land 250 feet wide and about one mile in length. The strip above L street is now being filled in and it will soon be on grade ready for use. It belongs to the District of Columbia. We have already had promised to us a strip of some 700 feet in length lying at the upper part of the canal for a playground for colored children, and a little later we hope to get a strip lying lower down for a playground for white children.

The fourth sort of site of which I endeavored to secure an account was the vacant block or square. It would seem at first blush that the attempt to find each vacant space of two acres or more in a city that covers sixty or seventy square miles might be a Herculean one, and indeed it might well be. It would take two or three months to secure a very imperfect inventory of sites from actual inspection. A far more complete and reliable account of the vacant places was secured in a single day by going over the plat books, which may be found in the office of any real estate dealer.

In this way I made a plan of each park, cemetery, waste place, or vacant square in the city. This plan showed the location, area and general shape of each site. I arranged these plans in routes, putting those in the same section of the city together, and visited them all on a bicycle, taking notes at each site as to whether it was on grade

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and level or the opposite, on the nature of the surrounding population and on other matters of interest. This took about three days with about forty miles of riding each day. It was well worth while just for the knowledge it gave me of the city and its population.

Having secured this information, I took the plans to the office of a friendly real estate dealer and got the assessed value of each site filled in, and secured from him an estimate as to the actual cost per square foot of each.

I then secured an outline map of the district which gave every city square by number and had this map mounted. I purchased a box of paints and put in from the school maps of the city all of the schools for white children in red, the schools for colored children in blue, and indicated the location of the playgrounds by circles of the same color. I put in along with the schools, but with green outline, all the orphan asylums and institutions for children, as being places where playgrounds were most needed. I then put in, in green, all public sites which seemed available and properly located for playground purposes. I put in reclaimable areas in black and outlined the vacant squares in black. Fixing the compass points at a distance of half a mile, I drew circles around these various squares and reservations with a half-mile radius. This indicates by the number of schools enclosed within the circle almost exactly the value of any particular site for playground purposes. For instance, Reservation 24 has within a half mile of it eight public schools, with an enrollment of 3173. Reservation 8 has within a half mile of it two public schools, meaning approximately 800 children, etc. As children will not regularly go much over half a mile to a playground, the city should be so districted that the half-mile circles will just touch each other. The map reproduced is only a section of the map made, and represents the most densely settled part of the city. So also the circles are not put in on the reproduced map, with a single exception, because it does not seem wise to advertise the sites selected. But each site on the map is numbered according to the classes of sites mentioned, and on the accompanying key in the office is a description, a few of which are here given. Thus, for example:

Public site No. 8, a portion of Potomac Park, containing twenty acres, lying south of B and between Nineteenth and Twenty-second streets, N.W., at present below grade, but to be pumped in this year. It is just south of the area recommended by the Special Park Commission for sites of Government buildings and lies just off the line of proposed improvements terminating in the Lincoln Memorial.

Waste place No. 6, situated on the Anacostia river, lying between the sewage aqueduct and the Anacostia bridge, rather more than 100 acres, to be filled in by the dredging of the Anacostia river next year if riparian rights can be secured. A location should be secured here for a riverside park and playground with bathing beach opposite the navy yard. Such a park and bathing beach were contemplated in the report of the Special Park Commission.

Vacant square No. 55 contains about four acres, has a high bank



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at the north and is all above grade, but is nearly level at the top, with a very gentle slope at the south. Cost about fifty cents a square foot; location excellent.

Having thus put the information into graphic form, committees were appointed to wait on the officer in charge of buildings and grounds, on the district commissioners and on certain semi-public institutions, to ask that certain lands be set aside for playground purposes. Ten sites belonging to the United States were found near the thickly settled parts of Washington, which were practically unused. Of these, the officer in charge of buildings and grounds was asked to set aside six for playground purposes. He replied that he was willing to set aside five of these, one of which gave opportunities for a bathing beach, and that he would hold the sixth under consideration. This sixth location is part of Garfield Park, lying between Second and Third streets, S.E. It contains about four acres of ground, is well shaded, and is laid out with walks and benches. Four public schools are in the immediate vicinity and there are four more within a half mile, making in all eight schools with an enrollment of 3,133 children. Whilst two of these schools are within half a mile of an existing playground in the S.E. section, the children belong to a different social class and cannot be expected to go there. On the other hand there is no vacant square in this section of the city which could be purchased for playground purposes, the only open location being at the extreme S.W. along the James Creek canal, and in the colored section of the city. In providing a playground for these children it is necessary either to use a portion of the park, or else to purchase a block already covered with buildings and demolish the buildings. There were only sixteen benches in this portion of the park and in numerous visits it was always found to be unused. The entire area of the park is twenty-three acres, so that it did not seem we were asking for an unduly large amount for the children. These were the arguments which we presented and this site also was granted.

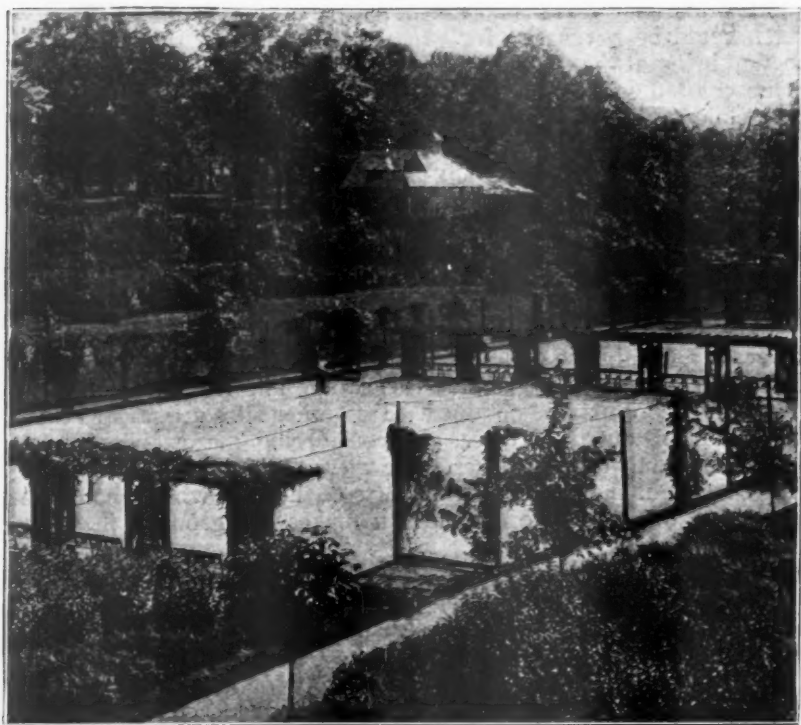
Four sites belonging to the District of Columbia were found to be vacant and in more or less available localities. One of these has been offered to the Playground Association, and it is probable that one or two more may be obtained. Two other sites are under semi-public control, but the trustees are considering the establishing of playgrounds on them. Besides these there are fully a dozen places lying outside of the thickly settled parts of the city, which should be secured as the growth of population makes playgrounds in these localities necessary.

The entire amount of time spent in finding and visiting the sites and making the map, and securing the seven sites already obtained, was two weeks, which was scarcely sufficient to make the work as thorough as would be desirable, though I believe two weeks would be ample for most cities. Probably \$300,000 or \$400,000 worth of sites will become permanent playgrounds as a result of the study.

While it is impossible to say beforehand whether similar results

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might be obtained in other American cities, there seems to be every reason for thinking so. The Census Bureau assures me that there are in many western cities considerable tracts of land taken by the city for non-payment of taxes which might be turned over for public purposes. We all know how many are the ponds and marshes around cities of our acquaintance, now breeding places for mosquitoes and malaria, which might become breathing places for the children if properly filled in. There is no city without its cemeteries, nor any city of any considerable size without abandoned cemeteries, which are probably a menace both to public health and public morals. We did not dream in Washington, before we began a careful study of public sites, that there was so much land that might be used, and I imagine that almost any city that undertook a systematic study in this way would be equally surprised. But perhaps the most important result of all is the locating of sites in some systematic way. When we had put in our half-mile circles and had the map of all possible sites before us, the desirability of securing certain of these sites rather than others became evident, and led to our recommending for purchase different ones from those originally intended.

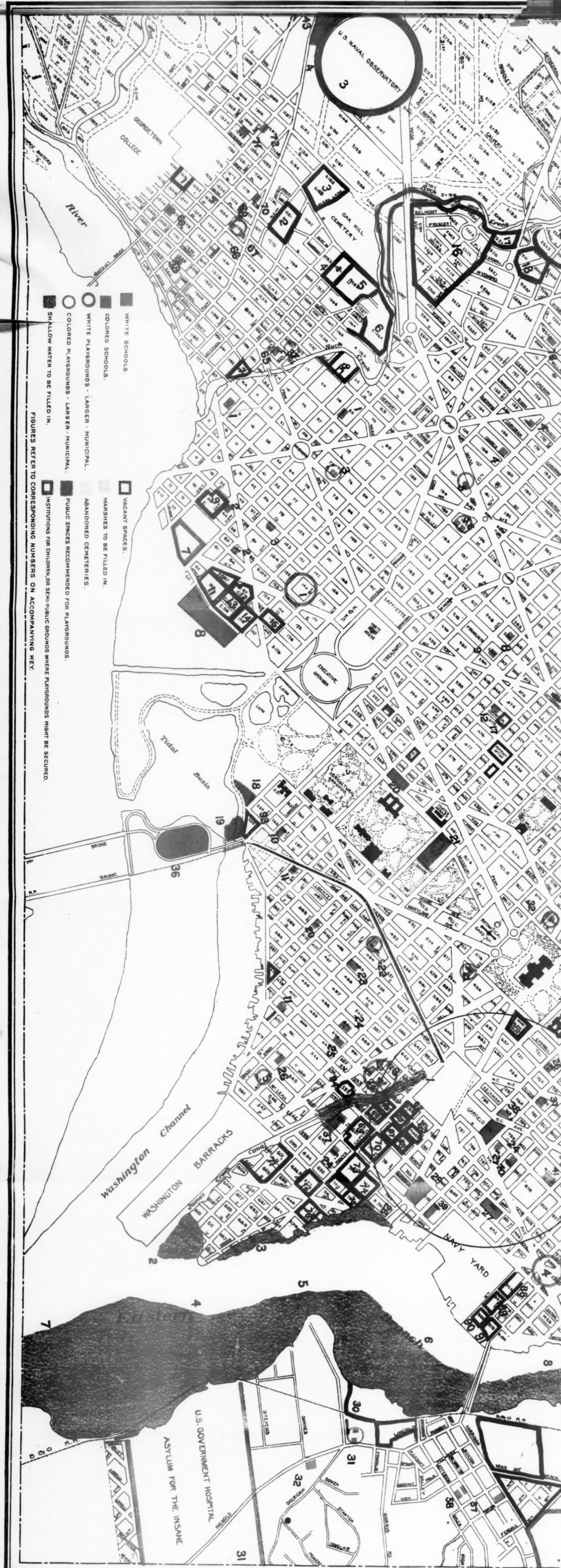


TENNIS COURTS IN POPE PARK, HARTFORD, CONN.





MAP OF POSSIBLE PLAYGROUND SITES IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON









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